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*Lisa Lloyd*

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## **A Fine Fleece: Knitting with Handspun Yarns**

**Lisa Lloyd : A Fine Fleece: Knitting with Handspun Yarns** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [A Fine Fleece: Knitting with Handspun Yarns](#):

52 of 52 people found the following review helpful. Not \*just\* for spinners, but...By Elizabeth MetzThis book might be geared towards spinners who are looking for beyond-the-basics use for his or her handspun (and provides tons of great information for those that do), but even if you've never spun a foot of yarn in your life, you can get something out of this book.The patterns included are \*fabulous\*. Beyond fabulous. They're rich and intricate and have a nice mix between smaller things and to-die-for sweaters. The photography is amazing and inspiring, and for a closer look at each garment, there are diagrams and stitch charts provided for every wearable. (One of the previous reviewers commented that the photos weren't clear -- not all of them, no. But the charts make up for that, plus some. And the photos are inspirational, so it's all good with me.)Each pattern gives you not just the required amount/wpi of the handspun yarn needed, but also gives a commercially-spun equivalent AND shows the knitted item in BOTH variations (hand/commercially-spun), so you can see how the handspun aspect changes the nature of the fabric (if it

does)...it's an amazing extra that the author gives us. Speaking of extras -- the sizing on these patterns ROCK. Being one of the Large Chest Brigade, it's often hard to find books that go beyond the 32 - 34 - 38 sizing for miniature people and get into the sizes more realistic for my...uh...front additions. Not a problem here. I think the smallest size I've seen has been 48", and that RULES. I loved the author just a little bit more than I did before after noticing that little (big?) detail. I've been paring down my Stuff lately. Getting rid of a lot of the extraneous possessions I've been hoarding. Knitting books are included in that. And I can say, without even a hint of hesitation, that this book would be one of the five I'd keep, no matter what. It's got EVERYTHING I look for in a knitting book, plus one. I'm so glad I picked it up, and I can't wait to start knitting a wardrobe-full of handspun, handknit sweaters just for me. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Lousy photography By Jeanne H If it hadn't been for all of the gorgeous sweaters I had seen on Ravelry, I doubt I'd have bought this book. One thing I expect in a knitting book is good photographs of the projects. Sadly the photos are mostly artsy-fartsy fashion shots: poorly-lit, partly out of focus, poses obscuring the garments, or just plain not showing what I wanted to see. I want to know how the garment looks all around - front and back! Fortunately I did not pay full price, and I can see why the price was marked down. If the photos had been better, I'd have rated the book higher. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great intermediate-advanced knitting patterns By Mary Ann This is well written, learned a great deal about yarns, but I bought it for the sweaters which are creative Aran Isle/Cabled/casual, not for beginners. An intermediate knitter with patience and pluck could give this a shot. The sweaters are really nice and there are three or four that I want to make, sigh, some day. Love this book.

The pleasure of knitting can be that much greater when you know you're using the perfect yarn. In *A Fine Fleece*, designer, knitter, and spinner Lisa Lloyd explores the different qualities of handspun yarn and presents projects that show them to their best advantage. There is valuable information here for every knitter, even if you've never considered learning to spin (though you may find inspiration in this book to do just that). While educating you on the differences in fibers (like Alpaca, Merino, Cormo, Rambouillet, and Suffolk) and the characteristics you can achieve in a handspun yarn by combining fibers according to certain recipes, Lisa Lloyd also shares the three important concepts that enlighten her designs: the use of contrasting color and fiber; scale and perspective (chunky yarns with chunky cable stitches versus chunky yarns with delicate ones); and the creation of poetic sweaters that try to capture an emotion. Each of the 26 projects in *A Fine Fleece* shows the finished project knitted in both a handspun yarn and a commercial yarn so that you can train your eye to understand how fiber and texture can truly transform a piece.

From Booklist It is clear that Lloyd is conducting a love affair with Aran designs (those wonderfully cabled knits from Ireland) as well as with the concept of blending the best of classic design with contemporary sensibilities. What does that mean? It means a judicious use of cables and twists with body-skimming shapes. Moreover, she figures out how to fashion each of the 26 patterns in hand-spun and in commercial yarns, presented beautifully in photographs and detailed instructions. For those unfamiliar with sheep breeds and outputs, there is a primer on hand spinning, selecting appropriate yarns, and other topics. The patterns present skill level (with clear definitions), measurements, gauge, materials, step-by-step how-tos, and, of course, photographs and graphs, whenever appropriate. Dream of these names Espresso, Le Smoking, October Frost, Gaelic Mist then begin stocking, er, stitching up. --Barbara Jacobs About the Author Lisa Lloyd specializes in traditional knitting and classic looks. She custom-designs yarns, and her knitting patterns have been published by Harrisville Designs, *Interweave Knits* magazine, and *Wild Fibers* magazine. Visit her online at [www.afinefleece.com](http://www.afinefleece.com).